



SENATOR
BILL HARDIMAN

E-Hardiman Herald



*Chair, Families & Human
Services Committee
Appropriations Committee:
Chair, Family Independence
Agency, Commerce Labor
& Economic Development,
Capitol Outlay,
Higher Education*

JUNE 2005

SENATOR HARDIMAN HELPS LOCAL SCHOOLS WIN BIG

Sen. Bill Hardiman succeeded in restoring \$800,000 in at-risk funding to Grand Rapids Public Schools as the Senate approved the budget that supports local schools. Hardiman offered and successfully passed an amendment that restored at-risk funding the School Aid budget. The money had previously been cut earlier in the budget process.

The money now restored to the budget would help the district support pupils deemed to be at-risk. The district can use the funds to reduce class sizes, implement reading programs, provide for health clinics, or provide medical or counseling services.

Senator Hardiman was also able to restore the \$100,000 funding for the Grand Rapids Area Pre-College Engineering Program (GRAPCEP) through an amendment in the Appropriations Committee, which was cut in the earlier version of budget. GRAPCEP is a regional pre-college engineering program intended to meet the need for well-trained engineers and scientists for growing businesses of West Michigan and to increase the number of historically under-represented populations in these career fields.

Additionally, under the Senate's higher education proposed budget, Grand Valley State University would receive \$12.8 million more than what the governor proposed and almost that much over last year's funding. The proposal would be a 22 percent over what the university received last year.

The Senate plan would set up a per-student funding floor of \$3,750 for Michigan's public universities. In the previous fiscal year, Grand Valley received \$3,072 per student. Under the new plan, Grand Valley would receive \$3,759 per student.

Senate Republicans also restored the Michigan tuition grant program, which supports private colleges and universities for the work they do educating Michigan's residents. The governor's proposal eliminated this funding but the Senate version reinstates 95 percent of that funding.

The Grand Rapids area has four private colleges, Calvin, Aquinas, Cornerstone and Davenport.

The appropriations bills now head to conference committee for consideration.

SEN. HARDIMAN'S STUDENT - SAFETY BILL PASSED OUT OF THE SENATE

Legislation proposed by Sen. Bill Hardiman R-Kentwood, that would keep felons and dangerous individuals out of the classroom won Senate approval today. His bill came as part of a package of bills introduced by House and Senate Republicans.

As part of GOP legislation, Hardiman proposed Senate Bill 615, which would require the Michigan Department of Human Services to do fingerprint-based background checks on all daycare center licensees and require daycare centers to do background checks on all paid employees. Hardiman's legislation would also prohibit daycare centers from employing convicted sex offenders.

On June 21, 2005, Senator Hardiman held a Family and Human Services Committee meeting where the Auditor General's office provided information that the current statute does not require the Department to perform criminal history background checks on individuals in child care organizations, including licensees, administrators, directors, and other adult household members residing in day care homes, or on employees or on volunteers that have contact with a child. Senator Hardiman's SB 615 would require background checks by law.

SB 615 has been referred to the House of Representatives for consideration.

HARDIMAN PARTICIPATED IN THE 2005 SMART MARRIAGES CONFERENCE IN DALLAS, TEXAS

In 2003 Michigan had 62, 920 Marriages along side 35, 569 Divorces. It's statistics like these that Senator Hardiman would like to take head on. For some years now Senator Hardiman has been involved in an effort to strengthen marriages. He is one of the founders and current Chairman of Healthy Marriages Grand Rapids formerly known as the Greater Grand Rapids Community Marriage Policy, a broad-based program to promote strong marriages and family life.

Senator Hardiman traveled to Dallas, Texas June 23- 26th to join other state legislators and officials from across the nation at the Smart Marriages Conference to discuss and provide compelling information on the benefits and practicability of supporting marriage, what other states have accomplished and discuss new legislative templates.

Topics ranged from how to better communicate with your spouse, to premarital and newlywed counseling and mentor programs, to further enriching existing marriages with a weekend away, with the program boasting "Is your marriage everything you dreamed it would be? It can be even better".

Senator Hardiman is confident that the programs, information and national organizations that he has learned about will truly benefit the Healthy Marriages Grand Rapids and his own relationship with his wife of 31 years.

FIREWORK SAFETY

With the 4th of July celebration right around the corner, I want to encourage all of you to take extra precaution when using fireworks. Each year approximately 12,000 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries. If you're going to use fireworks while celebrating our nation's birthday, be sure to take note of the following:

- Light fireworks in a clear area away from onlookers and houses.
- Do not try to re-light fireworks that malfunction - soak them in water.
- Even sparklers burn at 1800 degrees Fahrenheit - don't let small children use them.
- Never throw fireworks at another person
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket
- Always read and follow label directions
- Always have an adult present

For more information on fire works laws in Michigan contact the State Fire Marshal Division at (517) 322-1924. Practice these safety rules and have great 4th of July.

SENATOR HARDIMAN DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS

Office hours will be held on the first Monday of each month from 10:00am - 11:30am throughout the 29th district. On Monday, July 11th, Senator Hardiman will be holding monthly district office hours at. Bills Family Restaurant, 1235 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 **(PLEASE NOTE: SENATOR HARDIMAN WILL NOT BE PRESENT AT THE JULY OFFICE HOURS, HOWEVER STAFF WILL BE THERE IN HIS PLACE)**

Be sure to talk to the Senator at these upcoming office hours:

- Monday, August 1, Mr. Burger Restaurant, 1750 44th SE, Kentwood, MI 49508
- Monday, September 12, Grand Rapids Urban League, 745 Eastern Ave Se, Grand Rapids, 49503

Senator Hardiman will hold this time each month so constituents of the 29th district have an opportunity to speak to him about any questions or concerns they may have regarding state issues. You can also contact Senator Hardiman via his toll-free number: 1-866-305-2129 or e-mail: senbhardiman@senate.michigan.gov to set-up a meeting outside of the district hours.

Senator Hardiman will have a cell phone collection box available with him when he holds District Office Hours. Again, this donation will go to the victims of domestic violence. If you have a cell phone to donate, please stop by district office hours.

Together we can help the victims of domestic violence, one step at a time

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Hardiman Herald is designed to provide residents and organizations with a timely update of Senator Bill Hardiman's activity in Lansing. If you have any questions, please contact Senator Hardiman's office.

Mail: P.O. Box 30036 Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

Toll-Free Phone: (866) 305-2129

Fax: (517) 373-5801

E-mail: senbhardiman@senate.michigan.gov.

Website: www.senate.state.mi.us/gop/senator/hardiman/